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STATINTL

Senator Fulbright Objects

The Administration's \$3,400,000,000 foreign aid legislation is likely to suffer through Senator Fulbright's unwillingness to manage the bill on the Senate floor, as he has done in the past. But it is difficult not to sympathize with chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. The reasons for his action, which he threatened last October, merit close scrutiny.

For a long time Mr. Fulbright has wanted the economic and military programs to be submitted to Congress in separate authorization bills. Others also have advocated such a breakdown. But no administration has been agreeable to this course. The reason is entwined in domestic politics.

By way of illustration, last year Representative Morgan of Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and key Democratic committee members, told President Johnson that unless the programs were combined in the traditional manner drastic cuts in economic aid funds were certain. The congressmen said that because of substantial unemployment in their districts they could not justify full support of economic aid unless they could explain to their constituents that economic and military assistance were interdependent. This has been the argument for years.

It has always been difficult to separate certain economic and military aid figures because of a sort of middle category, military support. Last year Mr. Fulbright said the total should be broken into three bills—economic grants, all lending operations, and military aid. Basically he believes that the traditional form of extending foreign aid through bilateral agreements has outlived its usefulness, that the program can now make as many enemies as friends for the United States. He believes loans should be extended through multinational institutions.

Mr. Fulbright is expected to spell out his views in detail shortly, and the Administration should carefully ponder his advice. What Mr. Morgan told the President was true at one time, and may still be, but it has long been obvious that foreign aid needs a thorough reconsideration. The world has changed drastically since Marshall Plan days; equally drastic changes may be needed in the concept of foreign aid.